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# Worldwide Report

LAW OF THE SEA

No. 143



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## WORLDWIDE REPORT

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AUSTRALIA

JAPANESE INVOLVEMENT IN NORTH WEST SHELF GAS QUESTIONED

Canberra THE FINANCIAL AUSTRALIAN in English 19 Jan 81 p 3

[Article by Des Keegan]

[Text] The Government is misleading the public on the North West Shelf gas project, according to the Opposition spokesman on finance and trade, Senator Peter Walsh.

Senator Walsh yesterday said the Minister for Trade and Resources, Mr Anthony, told Parliament he expected the Japanese to sign up for NW Shelf gas before December 31.

As the contract had still not be signed, Mr Anthony should explain what was happening and why he apparently had been wrong before.

Senator Walsh asked if there was an unexpected obstacle to the signing or if previous optimism had been unwarranted.

"The series of bland assurances from Federal and West Australian Ministers and deadlines not met alarm those who want to see the North West Shelf developed," he said.

"Originally, both Governments claimed contracts would be signed by September, 1979.

"Sir Charles Court claimed early in 1980 that letters of intent had actually been signed.

"That was typically untrue, and appears to have been superseded by another untrue claim, this time from Mr Anthony.

"Both Mr Anthony and Sir Charles Court seem more interested in political grandstanding than in either doing their jobs or telling the public what is going on."

A spokesman for Mr Anthony said yesterday negotiations were going ahead and the memorandum of intent was imminent.

It was a matter between the North West Shelf consortium and the Japanese. The Government had nothing to do with the slight delay, he said.

The WA Government had already signed to take enormous quantities of North West Shelf gas for domestic use and had committed itself to a pipeline to Perth.

The spokesman said contracts ranging as high as \$60 million had been let and the whole massive project was on its way.

It was nonsense to suggest the Government had misled or confused the public, he said.

CSO: 5200

# OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION EXPECTED TO DROP IN 1981

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 21 Jan 81 p 28

[Text]

Expenditure on exploration and development of the Australian oil and gas industry will double this year, according to The Australian Petroleum Exploration Association.

The APEA says that an estimated \$400 million would be spent on exploration this year while about \$1,000 million would be spent on development. This is double the outlay for 1980.

Commenting on the increased activity, the APEA's executive director, Mr Keith Orchison, said yesterday, a survey of Australia's exploration companies showed that about 140 wells would be drilled this year in search of oil and gas.

Most of these will rank as wildcats in basins which to date have been unproductive, he said.

The substantial increase in development drilling — 27 wells were drilled in 1980 — is based on extensive programs in South Australia, particularly in the Cooper Basin, on Barrow Island,

off the Western Australian coast and in the Surat Basin, Queensland.

However, APEA says that a large slice of the spending will go to non-drilling costs for the North-West Shelf project and the Bass Strait platforms.

APEA predicts that onshore seismic work will total about 26,000 line kilometres compared with 22,314 kilometres in 1980.

Offshore seismic plans are also for 26,000 line kilometres, down substantially from last year when more than 40,000 kilometres were shot.

With the completion of the first stage of exploration drilling on the Exmouth Plateau, offshore expenditure is expected to fall from \$190 million to \$140 million this year. Depending on the availability of rigs, the total number of offshore exploration wells is expected to remain the same.

Most of the increase in exploration will be onshore for which companies have budgeted about \$260 million compared with \$100 million last year.

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## AUSTRALIA

### BRIEFS

FISH CATCH INCREASE—Canberra: Australia's fish production in 1979-80 was worth \$251 million—\$2 million higher than the previous year's record. But the Australian Fisheries Magazine, said that the result was a fall in real terms of about 10 per cent. The Department of Primary Industry magazine said rising fuel prices and a slowing in the rate of price increases for some species such as prawns and crayfish resulted in most fishermen being worse off than in the previous year. [Text] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 19 Jan 81 p 12]

UNDERSEA PIPELINE--A two-company consortium that includes the big WA engineer J. O. Clough and Son is believed to have won a \$50 million contract to lay the under-sea pipeline for the North-West Shelf project. According to industry informants, Clough and a firm called ETPM, the Australian subsidiary of a French group, are in the process of signing final documents on the deal with Woodside Petroleum Development Pty Ltd. The contract provides for the consortium to lay 135km of one-metre diameter pipe from the North Rankin gasfield to Withnell Bay. Work is expected to start early next year. The contract for supply of the pipe has been let to a group of Japanese companies. [Excerpt] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 26 Jan 81 p 41]

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BRIEFS

VENEZUELAN WATERS--San Fernando:--Fishermen from Icacos and Cedros are fishing in Venezuela's territorial waters at the moment at their own risks, because their fishing permits have expired, and they have been unable, to date, to have them renewed. A spokesman for Cedros Fishing Association said the permits, were issued for two years, but were used for only six months, and expired at the end of December, last year. The permits were used for six months because it took 18 months to have them processed and handed to the fishermen, said the spokesman. He said that the association had already made representation to the Government Fisheries Department, calling for renewal of the permits. "We are still awaiting word from Government on this matter." Several fishermen from these district said they could not sit doing nothing. They had to make a living as anyone else. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 21 Jan 81 p 6]

VENEZUELAN PERMITS--Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries has announced that permits issued to 60 Trinidad and Tobago fishermen in 1980 by the Government of Venezuela, under the terms of the bilateral fishing agreement to fish in Venezuelan waters, have been renewed to 30th April, 1981. Officers of the Fisheries Division of the Ministry have been distributing these renewed permits to the fishermen at their homes. [as published] Those who have not received theirs are reminded that officers of the Fisheries Division must be satisfied that all conditions previously stated are met (e.g. colour of boat-orange on the inside and 2" yellow strip above the water line. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 5 Feb 81 p 3]

CSO: 5200

## BRIEFS

ILLEGAL FISHING PENALTIES--St. Georges, Grenada, Feb. 11 (CANA): All foreign fishing vessels caught fishing illegally in Grenadian waters are to be seized, their catches confiscated and their crews prosecuted under Grenadian law. This warning has been issued here in a statement by the Peoples Revolutionary Government (PRG) which says that foreign commercial fishing boats have been found fishing in the island's territorial waters and economic zone. 'Despite several warnings on the marine radio band, radio free Grenada, diplomatic protests and several trips by the Grenadian coast guard units to officially notify these ships to leave our waters,' the statement says, 'illegal fishing has continued.' For some weeks now, there have been reports from Northern Grenada that several boats, thought to be trawlers have been spotted at night but disappear before dawn. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Feb 81 p 3]

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## BRIEFS

**SURINAME NEGOTIATIONS**--Guyana's Ambassador to Suriname Cde Philip Chan is negotiating with authorities in that country for the release of Guyanese fishing vessels seized when 15 fishermen were arrested on December 17, last year. This report by the secretary of the Upper Corentyne Fishermen's Cooperative Society Mitrabano Kumar was verified in a telephone conversation with the Guyana Embassy in Suriname. Cde Kumar reported that Ambassador Chan was "very cooperative and most helpful to the fishermen during their 35 days in prison. Contrary to earlier reports the men appeared in court and most of them were given suspended sentences. The systems of law and trials in Suriname are different from those that obtain in Guyana it was explained. The fishermen might also have experienced serious language problems in the Dutch-speaking state. The Embassy reported that the men on the vessel belonging to Thomas Veerapen were not sentenced and that vessel was made available to its owner. Cde Veerapen is expected in Nickerie in a few days time to uplift the boat. Reports Wednesday said that it was Mitrabano Kumar's vessel that was released, but Springland's police yesterday confirmed that it was Veerapen who is expected to return for his vessel. Police also gave a 15th name--Aubrey Fernandes--while Wednesday's report said that 14 men were released. Since their return, the fishermen have given statements to the police explaining the circumstances of their arrests. (GNA) [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 23 Jan 81 p 16]

**NEW SURINAME ARRESTS**--The Guyana Embassy in Suriname is holding talks with the Suriname Government for the release of four Guyanese fishermen who have been in the custody of the Suriname authorities since Friday for allegedly fishing in the territorial waters of the neighbouring Republic. The fishermen's names were given as Thakur Persaud, Roopnarine Ramlakhan, Kampta Persaud and Deonarine Premnath, all of whom hail from the Corentyne. Reports reaching Georgetown state that the fishermen were alleged to have been caught by the crew of a patrol boat. Yesterday the owner of the vessel, Narine Gopaul, left for Suriname to seek the release of his boat and the men. Meanwhile Cde Thomas Veerapen of Rose Hall, one of the 15 fishermen held last month, returned to Nickerie yesterday morning to recover his vessel which has been released by the authorities. Guyana's ambassador to Suriname, Philip Chan, is still negotiating with the Surinamese officials for the release of the other three boats which were held since December 17, last year. The Guyana government has repeatedly cautioned unlicensed Guyanese fishermen about fishing in Suriname waters. (GNA) [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 23 Jan 81 p 16]

## NAVAL JOURNAL OUTLINES STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF GULF

Tehran DARYANAVAVARDAN in Persian Nov-Dec 80 pp 32-39

[Excerpts] From the dawn of history, millions have studied and carried out research in military strategy, but only a few had been able to present new and acceptable ideas. The first man to do so was Sun Tzu, a Chinese who lived between 400 to 320 BC. In his book, "The Art of War," he wrote a number of essays which could be compared with views offered by strategist Klaus Witz [sic] who lived some 22 centuries later. Among numerous strategists, the names of captains Mahon, Corbette, Richmond, Russkill and Brody stand out as the ones who created and classified famous naval strategies, among whom Mahon and Corbette were the most important who believed that: control of the seas determined the fate of coastal areas and lands, and that whoever ruled the seas could also easily rule the lands, continents and the coasts.

The above-mentioned two strategists believed that control of important sea routes and straits would result in this mastery of the seas, after which control and possession of coastal areas and territories would become an easy task by exerting pressure by means of "blockade" and invasion.

Mahon, who lived from 1840 to 1914, paid full attention to the seas that cover 3/4 of our globe, and believed that any country or group of nations who could rule the seas could also have the control of the wealth of the world, and consequently, rule the world. He believed that in order to have control of the seas, a strong naval force, along with operational bases in various points around the globe and a merchant marine was necessary. One of the most important requirements for having a strong naval force, he believed, was the possession of a central strategic region with secure borders with an outlet to the open sea.

The coastal areas of this center of power must have deep ports and be easy to defend. He also believed that without the love for salt water and a mercantile psychology, no nation could become a major sea power. In addition, he said, a country that relies on sea power must constantly take advantage of all the environmental factors in order to be able to expand and strengthen her sea power.

Against Mahon's theory, which was naturally influenced by the British colonial policy and its naval power during the 18th and 19th centuries, Halford J. McVie believed in the importance of the mass land which was made the subject of his studies. In his book, "The Axis of Geographic History" [sic] which was published in 1904, he

directed his attention to Eastern Europe and to the European and Asiatic Russia, calling it "The Axis of Geographic History." On the two sides of this area lies two crescents comprising Central and Northern Europe and East Asia and Japan. He called this area (between the two crescents) the "Heartland," and believing in the mobility of military forces in the "Axis" and security communication in the "Heartland," he named this area "The World Island" and the rest of the world its satellite, and thus he arrived at this conclusion that:

"Whoever ruled Eastern Europe, ruled the 'Heartland.'"

"Whoever ruled the 'Heartland,' ruled the 'The World Island.'"

"And Whoever ruled the 'The World Island,' ruled the entire world."

It would perhaps be fitting to begin with the description of the Persian Gulf by a British named Wilson, who in 1928 wrote a book, "The Persian Gulf," in which he said:

"Perhaps no other body of water has ever attracted the attention of historians, geologists, archaeologists, geographers, conquerors, Adventurists and the politicians, as has the Persian Gulf. This body of water is one of the two arms of the vitally important Indian Ocean. The other arm is the Red Sea, known as the Arab Gulf in the past."

Up to World War II the British kept their dominant position, and the Allies made good use of this strategically important waterway. But with the end of World War II, we observe the following changes:

1. The United States enter the stage as the number one power.
2. The Soviet Union, as the second world power, enters the Indian Ocean as an opposing force.
3. As a result of losing its colonies and empire in the Indian Ocean, Great Britain is reduced to a second-rate power.
4. With the appearance of such leaders as Dr Mossadeq and Gamal Abdel Nasir, Nehru and Sukarno and the expansion of communist influence, imperialists lose ground and the people in the region become more determined in their struggle against colonialism.
5. The added importance of oil overshadows everything.
6. The British "Gunboat Policy" during the rule of Dr Mossadeq, and their dispatch of the battleship "Mauritius" to Abadan, make the nations in the region aware of the importance of naval power in the area, and the Americans blockade of Cuba changes the land strategy into the land-sea strategy and prompts the Soviets to begin building a powerful naval force and concentrate a strong naval force in the Indian Ocean.

The impounding of the oil tanker "Rosemary," which had been rented by Iran in an effort to break the British economic blockade of Iran, and the expropriation and trial in Aden, was a good lesson which taught the victims of colonialism the

the importance of possessing a limited regional naval power. Finally, the infamous coup d'etat of 28 Mordad [19 Aug 53] once again brought Iran under the influence of the world-devouring imperialists by the U. S., turning the country into a consumer nation dependent (on Western countries), and the thought of creating a naval power is replaced by an illogical expansion without proper plans.

After reviewing the policy of the world-devouring nations in the past quarter of a century, the question asked is that after the fruitful revolution of the Iranian people, what changes are expected in the naval strategy of the super powers and the colonialists in the Persian Gulf?

There is no doubt that one of the areas from which imperialists will not withdraw is the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean. The reason for it is that these waterways are the penetrating routes of the oil-rich Middle East through which the oil is shipped out and imported goods come in. It is necessary to discuss once again the naval strategy of the super powers and the principles of their application.

Basically, because of its limited goals, and because of the expansiveness of the oceans and seas and vital regions, naval strategy cannot be applied simultaneously everywhere and is considered a limited war. The principle of this limited war has been divided into two parts by strategists. These are: peacetime naval strategy, and wartime naval strategy. First, let us examine the principles of peacetime naval strategy. These are:

1. The necessity of keeping big naval units in the region, twice the number of naval units of potential enemy. For example, if the U.S. has 10 cruisers in the Indian Ocean the Soviets must put twice that number of ships in the area.
2. The number and composition of warships is not only connected with the naval power of the potential enemy, but also is connected with the volume of the sea trade.
3. The need for troop carrier vessels capable of transporting special motorized marine units to shores. This way the imperialists turn their potential influence in the region into reality.

These units, obviously, must enjoy air support which is provided by aircraft carriers.

4. Also needed are bases at ports that could be provided with facilities for maintenance and service and also equipped to protect them against air attacks by regional enemies. Super powers are in urgent need of such bases in the Indian Ocean. The U.S. is already using bases at Diego Garcia, Bahrain and Oman, and the Soviets have Aden and bases of the Socotra Island.

5. The need for merchant marine and oil tankers, in order to be able to carry on trade and strengthen the economic bases for a better life and a better equipped army, and its use at war for the support of the navy. The existence of logistic and support naval units among merchant vessels is also a necessity.

6. Strong support for the international maritime laws in peacetime, free passage through the international waterways and straits, and continued opposition with efforts aimed at extending coastal waters, sought by weak nations. Strong naval powers are opposed to the idea of the extension of the continental shelf that is

sought by weak nations. For example, the U.S. has announced its opposition to the concept of the 12-mile coastal waters and has, unilaterally, fixed it at 3 miles. It is obvious that the purpose of the opposition is to be able to have an easier access to coastal areas and make wider use of international waterways. And now, briefly, the strategic naval policy of the super powers in wartime:

1. The necessity of destruction or neutralization of the adversary's naval power to prevent a blockade or other hindrances that could interfere with the free uses of the high seas. It must be noted that in the past it was only the surface ships and the submarines that had to be destroyed. In recent years, the destruction of airplanes and their rockets have been added to the list, and without their destruction or neutralization, maintaining of naval superiority is impossible.

2. The necessity of preventing attacks against naval operational and support bases by using a roving air and naval power.

In other words, defense should come from points located far from original bases, and from a floating base rather than a stationary one, which has proved worthless in the past.

3. The using of the seas for landing troops on shores for a surprise attack against enemy lines of communication. This principle involves the use of airplanes and helicopters, too.

4. The need for naval and air attacks against the enemy's seelines to hurt its economy and to deprive the enemy from using the seas to achieve its political and military goals. This principle also involves attack against the enemy's logistic support bases.

5. The need for air coverage and air defense of naval and merchant ships against air and missile attacks 24 hours a day.

6. The need for naval escorts in order to provide protection for merchants ships and big and expensive naval units that sail in convoys.

Now that we are more or less familiar with the naval strategy of the super powers and imperialists, let us turn our attention to the Sea of Oman and the Persian Gulf and find out whether the imperialists are going to become involved directly in a sort of limited regional war in the Persian Gulf or not. It must be accepted that only the super powers have the ability to do this. Other colonialist powers cannot take such a step by themselves.

But, will the super powers, and especially imperialist America, take such an action? The answer to this political-military question is not easy. The 1956 Suez war, events in Vietnam and the landing of American troops in Lebanon have shown that such a decision by the U.S. is a possibility, but after the declaration of the "Guam Doctrine" by the Nixon the U.S. rejected such actions (in the future.)

What is certain is that the two super powers are seeking political influence in the region by depending on their naval power and strategy. The organizing of a 110,000-man force, along with all the propaganda about it, and the news of the possible closure of the Strait of Hormuz, which could possibly be just a bluff, could

be for the protection of American oil interest in Saudi Arabia, and a real one. It could also be a new trick continuation of political, military and economic influence (of the U.S.) in the Persian Gulf region.

While chaos and instability in the area could hurt American interests, the existing contrasts between the two super powers, one with material and the other with strategic and geopolitical interests, should not be ignored.

It is in this connection that the following questions could be asked:

1. Does the Soviet Union intend to penetrate the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman by the seaway, and is that country possibly planning to connect its naval force in the Indian Ocean to its forces in Afghanistan by advancing on land towards the Sea of Oman? Or, is the Soviet Union in the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf because of the presence there of American submarines capable of firing intercontinental nuclear missiles?
2. Does the U.S. want to keep the area in turmoil, and while protecting its oil interests in Saudi Arabia and other countries, keep its markets in the area and try to lure back some of the money it pays for oil, or could this be achieved by establishing relative stability in the countries in that region?
3. Does the U.S. and other Western industrial nations have conflict of interest in the Persian Gulf? Do these conflicts have negative effects on the crisis in the Persian Gulf area or not?
4. Have not the Islamic Revolution of Iran and the liberal movements of other nations in the area caused miscalculation by the super powers and other Western industrial nations, and is not the instability of the area the result of that revolution and the liberal movements?
5. Under what conditions will the U.S. get herself involved in a limited regional conflict?
6. How is the strengthening of Saudi Arabian forces by the U.S., when that country is not able to absorb the assistance given, going to affect the stability or the lack of it in the Persian Gulf area?
7. What effect the armed forces of the non-aligned countries, such as India, will have in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman?
8. Now that our revolution has come to fruition, is our national interest in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman going to be threatened by the states in the region under imperialist agitations?

The conclusion arrived by asking the above-mentioned question is that the Persian Gulf region, at the north shores of which lies Iran, is an extremely vital area in which the super powers and the colonialists have many designs. The foreign exchange produced by the sale of oil cannot remain in the area and not cause the fall of the economy of the West. We must remain alert and stop the return of these capitals and put them to uses for fundamental national reconstruction. It is only through

strong national central power, dependent on the everlasting power of the Moslem people of Iran, dedicated to preserve the independence and territorial integrity of this Islamic bastion, that the national interest could be protected, without fearing the super powers.

Population of Iran will soon reach 40 million, and considering the size of the country, with long shorelines in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, no one can remain indifferent to this vitally important area. The Persian Gulf belongs to Iran and the fate of Iran depends on the Persian Gulf.

How can we protect our interests in the Persian Gulf?

Is that to be accomplished by depending on a suitable naval power? And, finally, what shape and how large should this force be? Following are a few suggestions that come to mind. The goal could be achieved by:

1. Launching of a ship-building industry by supporting the state and private industries.
2. By raising the standard of education and knowledge of people and by an extensive familiarization of the people with the sea and by a greater utilization of the sea as a source of food, employment and recreation.
3. Setting up of a training center and a naval academy to educate and train officers for the navy and cargo ships, and sailors to work with the Ports and Shipping Organization.
4. Possession of a balanced naval force capable of protecting our national interests in the international waters through cooperation with the air and land forces. This naval force must move towards self-sufficiency and be free from its present dependence on imperialist powers.
5. Possession of ports capable of supporting the navy and a merchant marine, and at the same time be able to maintain and service vessels and provide a comfortable living condition for the naval personnel on the shores of the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman. At this time, we have no other ports except Bushehr, Khorramshahr, Imam Khomeyni and Bandar-e'Abbas. Other places called ports on maps of the Persian Gulf are not ports in the real sense.
6. Possession of a merchant marine that would move towards national self-sufficiency, and become an arm of the navy and its supplement for becoming a limited power in the area.
7. Possession of a fishing fleet, capable of operating in the Indian Ocean and produce protein for 50 million Iranians.
8. Possession of a port and shipping organization to be able to, in coordination with the navy and the merchant marine, and the fishing fleet, provide port facilities and services, and with communication with various points in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, be able to have sufficient information about weather conditions and control the situation in times of emergency.

9. Possession of a search and health quarantine system, and a naval health management system, plus a medical rescue system for the islands and the ports and the ships in emergency conditions. Also capability of evacuating the injured and the sick in such a manner to make the sea and the islands physically secure for living.
10. Complete coordination between all national forces, fishing, maritime or military, in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman. Also control and a mutual command in the exchange of national security information and its utilization in favor of the nation's foreign policy and its military and security.
11. Building land and air routes between the ports on one side, and between the islands and the ports, on the other. Thus creating a stronger tie between people in the coastal areas and the sea making them better familiar with its many benefits.
12. Securing needed water and electric power for the people in the dry and burning coastal areas of the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, so that they could provide a better support for the ports and the vessels.

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

FISHING AGREEMENT--We have just heard that Portugal and Spain have finally reached agreement on their fishing dispute. The agreement was only reached after a lengthy meeting this afternoon between the ministers of fisheries of the two countries. Thus, the licenses to be issued to Spanish trawlers to fish in Portuguese waters will be reduced by only 35 percent. The Portuguese side initially wanted them reduced by 50 percent. The agreement will be valid for 4 months and during this period further talks will be held with a view to a new agreement which will remain in force until either country joins the EEC. [Text] [LD012126 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 1 Mar 81]

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